



CARTER COURIER

<http://carter.house.gov>

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LETTER FROM THE CONGRESSMAN

Dear Friends,

Last week I was honored to recognize our troops for their service during a ceremony at Fort Hood with Vice President Cheney. I am proud of our troops, and take every opportunity to thank them for their service to our nation. I was also pleased to tour the Texas Oncology Cancer Center in Round Rock where I learned more about community cancer care. I also had the unique opportunity to eat lunch with residents and staff at the Down Home Ranch which provides hope and support to adults and teens with disabilities. I was pleased to see the great work being done at this facility.

Today, I am meeting with a number of constituents who are in Washington, DC, for the AUSA annual meeting. Although I often visit with local officials while I am in Texas, this conference gives people a chance to see me in our nation's capital. I will have the chance to meet with Army officials, as well as leaders from Killeen, Temple, and Copperas Cove.

SERVICE ACADEMY REMINDER: Applications for all of the service academies must be received in my Round Rock office by **October 31st**. Please contact my Academy Nominations Coordinator at 512-246-1600 if you have any questions or concerns. To learn more about the process, visit my website at <http://carter.house.gov>.

Until next week,

CONG. CARTER, VICE PRESIDENT CHENEY HONOR FORT HOOD TROOPS

I was honored to have joined Vice President Cheney in thanking our troops for their commitment and dedication to our nation last week. I joined Vice President Cheney in honoring the men and women of our U.S. Army during a rally for the troops at Fort Hood. Following the rally, I wished our soldiers well during a deployment ceremony.

Central Texans are especially proud of Fort Hood and thousands of our heroic soldiers and their families. Our troops have a tremendous task, and we must recognize each of them for their courage, commitment, and sacrifice on behalf of our freedom. I will continue to support our troops and their unwavering perseverance in fighting terrorism and defending freedom.

The Vice President began his speech to the troops by recognizing my support of our military saying, "We want to thank you all. Fort Hood is in the 31st Congressional District. And the local congressman, a great friend of the military, is with us here today, Congressman John Carter."

Vice President Cheney went on to say, "But above all, ladies and gentlemen, I want to thank the soldiers of three great American military units, 3 Corps, the 4th Infantry Division and the 1st Cavalry Division. In the five years since our nation was attacked, men and women from Fort Hood have served on many fronts in the global war on terror. You've trained America's warriors and sent them forth to confront America's enemies. You've tested

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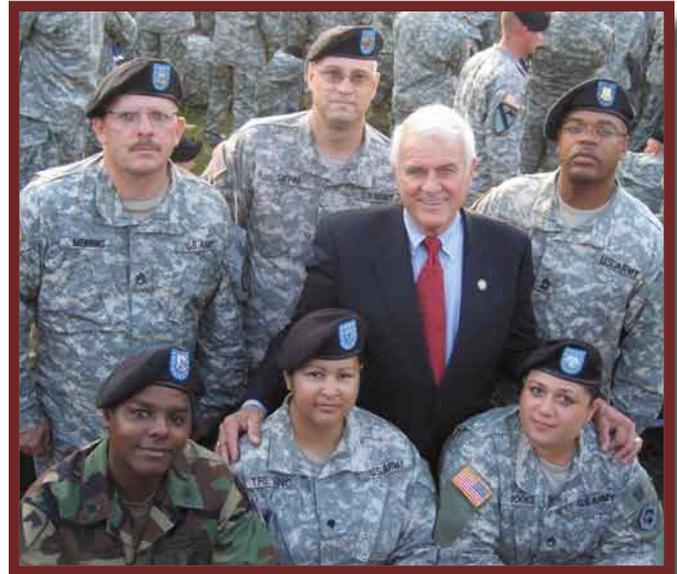
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new equipment and systems and moved them quickly into the hands of warfighters. The dangers have been many. The duties have been hard. And your performance has been superb. You've proven time and time again that you know how to take the fight to the enemy and to get the job done right. So I'm honored to be in your presence today. And I bring good wishes to each and every one of you from our commander in chief, your neighbor from McLennan County, Texas, President George W. Bush."

Pictured: Congressman Carter thanks Fort Hood soldiers for their service following a rally for the troops.



CARTER WORKING TO PROTECT RIGHTS OF LAND OWNERS

I was pleased to support House passage of the Private Property Rights Implementation Act, which will help protect Americans' private property rights by providing them with greater access to federal courts if their property rights have been affected by decisions of federal, state, and local governments. H.R. 4772 ensures that private property owners have the same access to federal courts as other plaintiffs claiming a violation of their constitutional rights.

This bill is critical to helping protect the personal property of individuals. In order to take a property rights case to the federal court, the current process is too costly and burdensome for many citizens. I am pleased to support legislation that gives property owners the access to federal courts they are entitled to under the Constitution.

This bill also requires a federal agency, whenever it takes action limiting the use of private property that may be affected by the amendments made by this legislation, to give notice to the owners of that property explaining their rights and the procedures for obtaining any compensation that may be due to them under such amendments.

This bill passed the House by a vote of 231 – 181.

CARTER VOTES TO COMBAT COSTLY DROUGHTS

Bill Would Help Protect Crops, Save Economy Billions

I supported House passage of a bill that will ease the devastation brought by severe droughts, which destroy large portions of the nation's croplands and drain billions of dollars from the U.S. economy every year.

Unfortunately, Texans are all-too familiar with the agriculture and economic damage caused by droughts. In fact, in 2006, nearly 90 percent of our great state suffered drought conditions of moderate or worse. The bill we passed will lessen the devastation caused by drought by equipping our farmers and water resource managers with the tools they need to prepare for and respond to drought situations.

This bill is great news for a number of industries throughout Central Texas. Better forecasting of coming droughts will allow water managers to change reservoir release schedules and water restrictions, farmers to choose crops with lower water demands and change the timing of high-water use crops, and forest managers to pre-position water and fire-fighting assets to reduce the likelihood of devastating fires. Further, animal stock owners will also be able to budget for increased feed costs and sell excess stock early when prices are still high. It is clear that with improved monitoring and forecasting, our economy will be spared billion of dollars in damages every year.

H.R. 5136, the National Integrated Drought Information System Act of 2006, would build upon existing federal programs to establish a coordinated federal effort to more accurately monitor and predict costly droughts. More specifically, the bill would establish a National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS) that would help decision makers better prepare for drought periods by expanding monitoring and data collection systems to include coordinated, comprehensive coverage of key indicators such as soil moisture and ground water; implement-



ing an integrated data collection and dissemination system; and developing effective and useful tools to support analysis and decision making at all levels and geographic scales.

CARTER HAILS PASSAGE OF DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION BILL

Supports Troops, Funds War on Terror Priorities, blocks TRICARE Increases

I proudly voted in favor of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007 conference report. The \$532.8 billion bill sets the policies, programs, and funding levels for the nation's military.

Our service men and women voluntarily make sacrifices every day to fight terrorism and defend our freedom. It is our duty as a nation and a Congress to give them the resources they need to successfully carry out their mission. I will continue to fully support the needs of our U.S. soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines.

This legislation includes valuable measures from force protection to a pay raise and programs for reservists and families. We were also successful in heading off proposals to increase TRICARE fees.

The conference report for H.R. 5122 authorized \$532.8 billion in budget authority for the Department of Defense and the national security programs of the Department of Energy. This includes \$84.2 billion in procurement funding; \$73.6 billion for research, development, testing and evaluation; \$110.1 billion for military personnel; \$155.3 billion for operations and maintenance; and \$17.1 billion for military construction and family housing.

Specifically, the bill includes an additional \$70 billion in supplemental funding to support the war on terror's operational costs; Additional funding for force protection needs, including up-armored Humvees, Humvee IED protection kits and gunner protection kits, improvised explosive device (IED) jammers and state-of-the-art body armor; Additional increases of 30,000 Army and 5,000 Marine Corps active duty personnel to sustain our required missions; and A 2.2% pay raise for all members of the armed forces.

It also blocks the Department of Defense's proposed TRICARE Prime and TRICARE Standard fee increases and prohibits increases in beneficiary cost shares for prescriptions obtained through the TRICARE retail pharmacy network. The bill authorizes grants and loan guarantees to U.S. shipyards to improve their efficiency, cost-effectiveness and international competitiveness. Finally, it fully funds the immediate Army and Marine Corps shortfalls for readiness and equipment reset.

NEW! OCTOBER COMMUNITY OFFICE HOURS

Congressman Carter's *staff* will hold community office hours at the following time and location. The staff will be able to meet with residents to listen to their concerns and provide assistance with regard to federal issues and federal agencies.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24th

9:00 am - 11:00 am

Gatesville

Chamber of Commerce
Cotton Belt Depot
2307 Hwy. 36 South
Gatesville, Texas

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24th

2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Hamilton

Lee Conference Center
110 East Main Street
Hamilton, Texas

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25th

9:00 am - 11:00 am

Dublin

Chamber of Commerce
108 South Patrick
Dublin, Texas

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25th

10:30 am - 1:00 pm

Salado

Community Center
601 North Main
Salado, Texas

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25th

2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Stephenville

298 West Washington
Stephenville, Texas



Kids' Page

THE PRESIDENT'S CABINET QUIZ

1. Who is the Secretary of the State?

Donald Rumsfeld
Dick Cheney
Colin Powell
Condoleeza Rice
Barney

2. Which department oversees the U.S. Mint?

Department of Agriculture
Department of Housing and Urban
Development
USAID
Department of the Treasury
The Herb Growers of America

3. The Council on Environmental Quality is located within:

The Executive Office of the President
Environmental Protection Agency
Department of the Interior
Department of Veterans Affairs
Fenway Park

4. What department is located at the Pentagon?

United States Congress
Department of Justice
Department of Labor
Department of Defense
Macy's Department Store

5. Transportation Secretary Mineta has a distinguished background. He also served as:

Ambassador to Antarctica
U.S. Congressman
Astronaut
Mayor of Philadelphia
1997 Bullriding Champion

Coloring Page

The below picture is the answer to question number 4.

This building has five sides, and is one of the world's largest office buildings. It is twice the size of the Merchandise Mart in Chicago, and has three times the floor space of the Empire State Building in New York. The National Capitol could fit into any one of the five wedge-shaped sections.

Approximately 23,000 employees work here. The complex includes 200 acres of lawn, approximately 8,770 parking spots in 16 parking lots, 131 stairways, and 19 escalators. The offices occupy 3,705,793 square feet. The building has 4,200 clocks, 691 water fountains, 284 rest rooms. Workers consume 4,500 cups of coffee, 1,700 pints of milk, and 6,800 soft drinks prepared or served by a restaurant staff of 230 persons and dispensed in 1 dining room, 2 cafeterias, 6 snack bars, and an outdoor snack bar.

